

Establishing and Maintaining a God-centered Ministry in a Man-centered culture

An overview of the book of Titus

Establishing a God-centered ministry

- 1) Sovereign preparations of Crete
 - a) Cretan Jews were present on the day of Pentecost—Acts 2:11
 - b) Recognize God's preparation for Titus' future ministry
 - i) With Cretans
 - (1) Settling the island of Crete
 - (2) Cretan Culture
 - (a) Including state sanctioned pederasty as a form of population control.
 - (3) Greek language
 - ii) With Jewish Cretans
 - (1) Establishing the Jewish nation
 - (2) Establishing the feast of Pentecost
 - (3) Bringing Jews to the island of Crete
 - (4) Bringing Cretan Jews to Jerusalem for this specific Pentecost
 - c) It is possible that Paul had some brief ministry on Crete during an extremely brief visit in Acts 27.
 - d) Paul left Titus on Crete (1:5) during some unrecorded voyage.
- 2) Sovereign preparations of Titus
 - a) Titus was a Gentile convert—Galatians 2:3
 - i) Probably converted under Paul's preaching ministry—Titus 1:4
 - b) Titus served faithfully in previous assignments—Galatians 2:1-3; 2nd Corinthians 7:6-7; 8:6, 16
 - c) Titus was Paul's partner and fellow worker—2nd Corinthians 8:23
 - d) Titus was replaced on Crete by either Artemas or Tychicus—Titus 3:12

Maintaining a God-centered ministry

Viewing the book of Titus from a THEMATIC, theological perspective

- 1) God the Father
 - a) Paul's master—1:1a
 - i) Paul was His bondservant (δοῦλος doulos # 1401)
 - b) Elects—1:1b
 - c) Unable to lie (ἀψευδής apseudes # 8893)—1:2a
 - d) Promised eternal life before eternal times—1:2b
 - e) Manifests eternal life through preaching—1:3a
 - f) Our Savior—1:3b; 2:10; 3:5
 - g) Source of grace and peace—1:4; 2:11
 - h) Owns the work in the congregation—1:7
 - i) Overseers are God's stewards (οἰκονόμος oikonomos # 3623)
 - i) Concerned with the reputation of His Word—2:5, 10
 - j) God of goodness and loving kindness—3:4
 - k) Source of mercy—3:5
 - l) Pours out the Holy Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ—3:6

- 2) God the Son
 - a) Our God and Savior—2:13; 3:6
 - b) Focal point of our waiting—2:13
 - c) Gave himself to redeem and cleanse us—2:14
 - i) Substitutionary death emphasized (ὕπερ huper # 5228)
- 3) God the Spirit
 - a) Renews God's elect—3:5
 - b) Poured out abundantly by the Father on His elect through Jesus Christ—3:6

Viewing the book of Titus from a TELIC perspective

- 1) Introduction—Titus 1:1-4
- 2) Maintain Godward standards for pastoral qualifications—Titus 1:5-16
 - a) **What** are the qualifications?—Titus 1:5-9
 - i) The purpose for which Titus was left on Crete is noted in the ἵνα clause in 1:5
 - ii) The reason elders should meet specific qualifications is noted in the γάρ clause in 1:7
 - iii) The purpose for which elders must hold firm to the faithful word according to the teaching is noted in the ἵνα clause in 1:9
 - b) **Why** are these qualifications important?—Titus 1:10-16
 - i) The reason elders should give instruction and rebuke those who contradict is noted in the γάρ clause in 1:10
 - ii) The reason Titus was to rebuke false teachers is noted in the ἵνα clause in 1:13
- 3) Maintain Godward guidelines for all groups within the congregation—Titus 2:1-15
 - a) **Who** to address and what are the age-specific guidelines?—Titus 2:1-10
 - i) General principle—Titus 2:1
 - ii) Based on age—Titus 2:2-6
 - (1) Older men—Titus 2:2
 - (a) What?
 - (2) Older women—Titus 2:3-4
 - (a) What?
 - (b) The reason older women are to be like this is noted in the ἵνα clause in 2:4
 - (3) Younger women—Titus 2:4-5
 - (a) What?
 - (b) The reason younger women are to be like this is noted in the ἵνα clause in 2:5
 - (4) Younger men—Titus 2:6
 - (a) What?
 - iii) Based on church leadership position—Titus 2:7-8
 - (1) Set the standard in behavior
 - (2) Set the standard in teaching
 - (a) The reason Titus was to be like this is noted in the ἵνα clause in 2:8
 - iv) Based on “employment” status—Titus 2:9-10
 - (1) The reason bondservants are to be like this is noted in the ἵνα clause in 2:10
 - b) **Why** are these particular guidelines to be fulfilled?—Titus 2:11-15
 - i) The reason for all of the above groups to live this way is noted in the γάρ clause in 2:11
 - ii) The two-fold purpose of Christ giving himself is noted in the ἵνα clause in 2:14

- 4) Maintain Godward guidelines for Christian citizenship—Titus 3:1-7
 - a) **What** does it look like?—Titus 2:1-2
 - b) **Why** should it be like this?—Titus 3:3-7
 - i) The reason believers are to function as Godward citizens is noted in the γάρ clause in 3:3
 - ii) The purpose of God richly pouring out His Spirit is noted in the ἵνα clause in 3:7

- 5) Maintain Godward guidelines for social behaviors—Titus 3:8-11
 - a) The purpose for Titus strongly insisting on these teachings is noted in the ἵνα clause in 3:8
 - b) The reason Titus was to avoid certain discussions is noted in the γάρ clause in 3:9

- 6) Titus 3:12-14—concluding remarks
 - a) The reason Titus was to hurry to Nicopolis is Note the γάρ clause in 3:12
 - b) The purpose for Titus helping Zenas and Apollos on their way is noted in the ἵνα clause in 3:13.
 - c) The purpose for Titus discipling Cretan believers in devoting themselves to good works and meeting urgent needs is noted in the ἵνα clause in 3:14.

--presented June 22, 2006, by Phil Siefkes, elder
Calvary Baptist Church
Sleepy Eye, MN